Department of **Corrections**
WASHINGTON STATE

## VSM
*at a glance*

**Value Stream Mapping**

Value Stream Mapping (VSM) is a Lean tool used to analyze and design the flow of materials and information required to bring a product or service to a customer.

**Benefits**

- Gives a big picture perspective
- Shows value added transformations
- Highlights sources of waste
- Makes information flows apparent
- Identifies constraints
- Forms a basis for an implementation plan

**Parts of the VSM**

- Customer & Supplier
- Input & Output
- Process steps
- Product/Information flow
- Queue time
- Metrics
- Notes
- Timeline

**Tips for Building a VSM**

- Start map from direct observation
- Use chart paper & sticky pads
- Place process boxes in the middle to allow for detail
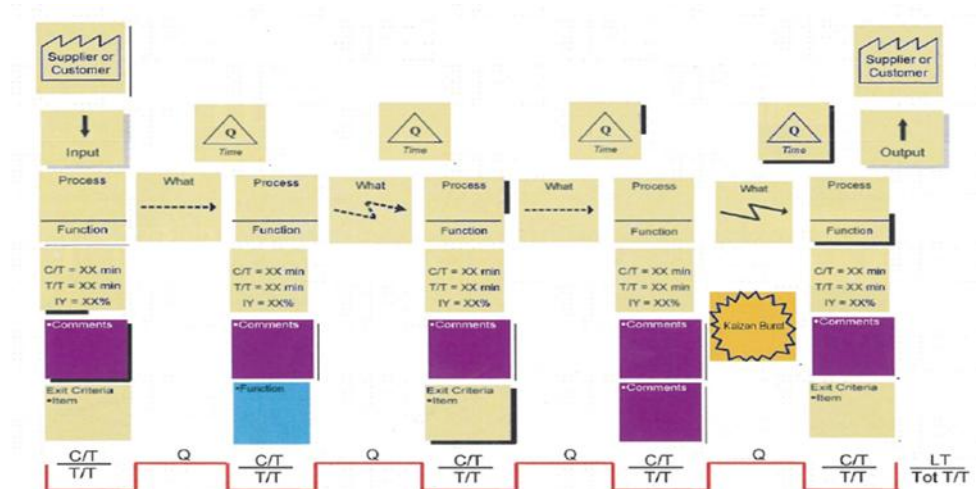- Include a legend
- Title & date

**Definitions:**

**Value Stream** – an entire set of activities needed to deliver a specific product to a customer

**Value Stream Map** – a visual tool which illustrates how materials and information moves through a value stream with a focus on improving the whole value stream rather than optimizing pieces of it

Value Stream Mapping is a two part process:

1) Current State Map – describes the value stream in its current state
2) Future State Map – describes the value stream after waste has been removed

**Sample:**



**Steps to build a VSM**

1. Identify customer & what is delivered
2. Identify supplier & what they provide
3. Confirm team's understanding of delivered product
4. Identify first process
5. Identify appropriate metrics for the process
6. Document comments & symbols
7. Identify "what" goes to next process & how the "what" is conveyed
8. Identify inventory or queues
9. Repeat steps 4-8
10. Validate current state map
11. Conduct value-added test on each step in value stream
12. Document overall value stream metrics in timeline

**Remember:** Value stream maps are used to analyze the system in order to identify and eliminate waste.

Reference:

Boeing Management Company, Lean+. (2010). *Value Stream Mapping Workshop Leader Certification manual*